

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The application was filed with original Claims 1-17.

Claims 1-8 are finally rejected by the Office Action of 6 December 2005, while this same Office Action indicated that Claims 9-11, and 14-17 were allowed. Claims 12 and 13 were canceled in an earlier amendment.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12, and 13, are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as fully anticipated by the Freiburg '294 patent.

Claims 6, and 7, are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the Freiburg '294 patent in view of the Sieling, '568 patent.

**Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1, 3-5, and 8 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as fully anticipated by the Freiburg '294 patent. Claims 1 and 8 are amended by this response in order to more clearly set out the inventive novel subject matter of the applicant's invention.

The Freiburg '294 has been fully considered in an earlier amendment, and the remarks therein are incorporated herein by reference.

In contrast to Freiburg '294, amended Claim 1 recites a folded ridge cover comprising, inter alia, an elongate sheet of flexible composition sheet shingle material including plural spaced apart transverse impressed grooves. These impressed grooves are stated now to not penetrate through said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is free of transverse slits, and which impressed grooves also do not remove material from said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is free of transverse scores.

Respectfully, this recitation of the character (i.e., impressed) of the score lines is a structural limitation, not exclusively a method (or product by process) limitation. This is the case because a slit cuts through the sheet material clearly making a weak area, while a score line removes material from the sheet shingle material as the scoring tool makes the score mark. So, scoring thins and also makes a weak area of the sheet shingle material along the score line. Each of these slit or score expedients which Freiburg uses significantly locally weakens the sheet shingle material along the slit or along the score line. In contrast, the impressed grooves used by the applicant are different both in structure, and in result. The impressed grooves as recited by the applicant do not effect the same weakening of the sheet shingle material along the line of

these impressed grooves, as would the slitting or scoring used by Freiborg.

Accordingly, the invention now recited by amended Claim 1 is not the invention taught by Freiborg '294. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to present patentably novel subject matter over the Freiborg '294 reference.

Claims 2-7 depend from amended Claim 1, and are submitted to be allowable on the same basis as the independent Claim from which they depend.

Independent Claim 8 recites a ridge cover work piece (i.e., from which the shingle ridge cover is made), and includes now a recitation of the structural distinctions resulting from the applicant's use of impressed grooves rather than the undesirable slitting or scoring used by Freiborg '294. Accordingly, amended Claim 8 is also respectfully submitted to present patentably novel subject matter over the Freiborg '294 reference.

#### **Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 6 and 7, are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the Freiborg '294 patent in view of the Sieling '568 patent.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1 (via intervening Claim 3) and are submitted to be allowable on the same basis as the independent Claim from which they depend.

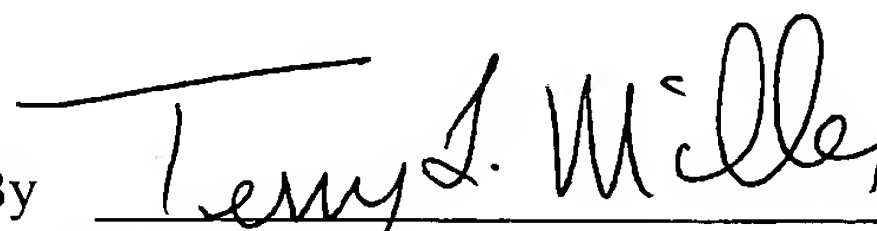
In view of this amendment, both reconsideration and allowance of the Claims pending in this application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set out below if such will further or expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

1/6/06

By



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